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SUMMARIES

journal or publication title	The Journal of Contemporary Social Sciences
volume	18
page range	97-101
year	2021-02
URL	http://id.nii.ac.jp/1060/00012807/

Analysis of Factors Related to Prefectural Differences of Parasite Singles

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Progress of a low birthrate is remarkable in recent years in Japan, and the increase in parasite singles is given as one of its cause. A parasite single is defined as an unmarried person who still also lives together with a parent after the schoolwork, and depends on a parent for the basic life condition. This work was tried to elucidates factors related to prefectural differences of parasite singles. The ratio of parasite single was calculated from a total result of the natural census in 2015, and a large difference was found among ratios of parasite singles in prefectures. The nonlinear multi-regression analysis has been carried out to reveal some factors of the parasite single's by using the rates of prefectures as the objective variable, and 29 kinds of indices of 5 fields as the explanatory variable. Eight factors which satisfactorily reproduce the observed ratios of parasite singles have been obtained, of which the house, the unemployment rate, the number of rooms and the junior high school graduate contribute to the increase of the ratios of parasite single while the urbanization, the number of siblings, the household income, and the university graduate school graduate contribute to the decrease. It has been found that among them, the contribution of the house is the most significant factor to explain the prefectural differences.

Keywords : Parasite Single, Prefecture Difference, Analysis of Factors, Nonlinear Regression Analysis.

"Disaster Prevention Cultural Power" as Social Security Policy

Yasuhiro KAMOSHIDA

In recent years, a major shift has been made from public assistance to self-help/mutual assistance as national and local government disaster prevention policies. Traditionally, disaster prevention policies have been centered around public assistance in which the national and local governments protect residents, but with the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the Great East Japan Earthquake, the limits of public assistance were gradually recognized. Instead, what has emerged is the framework of self-help and mutual assistance. However, such a major shift in the framework has changed the way we think about disaster prevention so far, and is not yet sufficient. In this paper, we focus on the concept of disaster prevention cultural power and consider the restructuring of self-help and public-help efforts. In order to promote future disaster prevention policies, it is necessary to review the existing disaster prevention and response to disasters, and to create programs led by residents in cooperation with local governments. In addition, disaster prevention policies that can be seen from such a perspective require a comprehensive perspective that goes beyond the conventional policy framework, that is, a perspective of social safety policy.

Keywords : Disaster Prevention Cultural Power, Social Security Policy, Self-help, Mutual Assistance, Multi-institutional Cooperation

The Historical Transitions in Industrial Property Right System and the Situation of Applications for Patent, Utility Model and Industrial Design in All Industries and Textile-related Industries since the 1960s: with the Aim of Comparing with the Two Major Districts of Producing Towels (Imabari and Senshu)

Chisako TSUJI

Purpose

The goal of this study is to evaluate the situation of applications for patent, utility model, and industrial design in two major districts of towel production, Imabari and Senshu, which have been discussed in the previous studies.

Method

In order to accomplish this, the changes in industrial property right system from 1871 to 2015 were investigated. The focus was then narrowed to all industries and textile-related industries from the 1964 to 2011, using the Japan Patent Office (JPO) Status Reports and the JPO Annual Reports. Based on these results, this study compares the situation of applications for patent, utility model and industrial design for the towel industry to all industries and textile-related industries.

Results and Conclusion

As a result, there were no correlations found in the situation of applications for patent, utility model and industrial design between the towel industry and all industries or textile-related industries. Therefore, we must investigate the situation of applications in the towel industry from a more focused perspective.

Keywords : Patent, Utility Model, Industrial Design, Historical Transitions, Imabari and Senshu Towel Industries

Chinese Multinationals' Direct Investment in Japanese Companies: Focusing on the Background of Their Foreign Direct Investment and Mergers and Acquisitions

Hisato NAKAMURA

How are Chinese companies, with little competitive advantage, achieving the status of multinational companies (MNCs) in advanced as well as emerging countries? This development cannot be explained through traditional multinational or international management theories. The author reported a series of papers (Nakamura 2019a; 2019b; 2020) and characterized foreign direct investment (FDI) by Chinese MNCs in advanced countries, especially the US and the EU, as “uphill type direct investment,” and clarified that the “double handspring strategy” of Chinese MNCs is the key.

This paper examines the aforementioned studies to explore whether Chinese MNCs' FDI theory in the US and the EU can be applied in the context of Japan. This paper also examined the “Made in China 2025 strategy,” which is believed to be the basis for recent direct investment by Chinese MNCs. Finally, the study explores the mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activities of Chinese MNCs in Japanese companies: the acquisition of popln by Baidu, Toshiba Lifestyle by Midea Group, and Toshiba Visual Solutions by Hisense Group.

Keywords : Chinese Multinationals, FDI toward Japan, Made in China 2025, Cross-border M&A, M&A toward Japanese Companies

Plastic Waste Reduction Policy: The Case of the Kanagawa Zero Plastic Waste Declaration

Yoshiyuki NOBUSAWA

The impact of plastics and microplastics on the marine environment has become a global concern. In Japan, a mandatory charge was introduced for plastic bags in an effort to discourage their use. Kanagawa implemented comprehensive measures to curb the use of plastic items such as bottles and bags. This paper considers the Kanagawa Zero Plastic Waste Declaration and the efforts launched by the local government. Kanagawa can be categorized into four regions: urban, coastal, inland, and mountainous. This paper analyzes the methods applied to move toward a zero plastic waste environment.

Keywords : Marine Plastic, Microplastic, Kanagawa Zero Plastic Waste Declaration, Plastic Bottle, City Beautification

Tourists as Railway Fans: Tourism Exchange at the Shin-Totsukawa Station on the Sasho Line

Muneharu YASUMOTO

Characterizing railway fans as tourists, this paper aims to review their involvement with local communities. These fan-tourists communicate with local residents and involve themselves in local activities such as the purchase of regional products during their regular visits. Meanwhile, local communities may seek an approach to achieve regional development by regarding fans as supporters of the region and uniting them with the region. In addition, some of these visitors have been socially recognized as “Railway Fans.” Some regions are looking for ways to accept railway fans regardless of the name recognition of rail lines, length of the line, and convenience. It could be considered regional promotion by railway fans to explore the attractiveness of railways and create opportunities to be involved with the regions. This paper examines the Shin-Totsukawa Station, the terminal station on the Sasho Line (Shin-Totsukawa Town, Hokkaido), which has witnessed the interaction between railway fans and the region well before 2020, when the termination of the line’s operation was determined.

Keywords : Railway Fans, Local Railway, Tourism Resource, Local Traffic, Tourism Behavior

Legal Order in East Asian Family Law- Focus on Chinese Family Law-

Sai SASAKI

This study aims to examine the possibility of finding a legal order common to East Asia in Chinese family law; China, a major country in East Asia, has close economic and family relations with Japan. Therefore, I first explore the basic structure of the Chinese legal system. Second, I focus on the five basic principles that are the basis of the Chinese Marriage law—freedom of marriage, monogamy, gender equality, the guarantee of legitimate rights and interests of women, children, and older adults, and the implementation of planned births—after which I finally drew some conclusions. I conclude that the 2001 Chinese Marriage Law would allow the benefits of “protecting the vulnerable (children, women, and older adults)” to permeate all basic principles, meaning that this Chinese family law could be a common legal order across East Asia.

Keywords : Chinese Marriage Law, East Asia, Chinese Family Law, Legal Order, Protecting the Vulnerable

The Link Between the Attributes of Organization Heads and Management Efficiency: An Empirical Study on Independent Administrative Agencies

Yoshinori SHIMOSAKAI

This study attempted to demonstrate the link between the attributes of organization heads and the efficiency of organizational management. This was done through an examination of Independent Administrative Agencies, which are a special form of administrative agency in Japan. The results show that efficiency gains tended to be achieved in cases where the expertise at the top of the organization were high or when the organization heads were older at the time of appointment, although the differences were not statistically significant. These results suggest that, regarding the link between organization heads and operational efficiency, the relationship between the agency structure of the organization and the expertise or experience required by organization heads, will have to be considered. This paper also points out that operational efficiency may not necessarily be achieved by simply relegating projects previously undertaken by the government to someone with experience in private sector management.

Keywords : Management Attributes, Management Efficiency, Independent Administrative Agency, Agency Theory, New Public Management

Case Study to Pursue Social Performance and Financial Performance in CSR: A Preliminary Consideration for Japanese Automobile Manufacturers

Kazumi SERA

The purpose of this study is to conduct analytic generalization by comparing multiple cases and clarify the process of achieving social performance and financial performance in corporate social responsibility (CSR). As a result of the recent CSR research review, a case study is needed on the process of achieving social and financial performance by focusing on specific companies and businesses. This study considers the hybrid car business of three Japanese automobile manufacturers (Toyota, Nissan, and Honda) as case studies, focusing on their response to the social issue of global warming. The cases are analyzed using a framework based on stakeholder theory, and the three companies' processes are compared and examined using the causal relationship pattern between investment and performance. According to the results, social demands may require unexpected social investment in some cases, and there might be difficulties in improving the financial performance due to such social investment was suggested.

Keywords : Corporate Social Responsibility, Social Performance, Financial Performance, Japanese Automobile Manufacturers, Case Study